

TCEQ Interoffice Memorandum

To: Industrial Permits Team
Wastewater Permitting Section

Thru: Brad Caston, Standards Implementation Peer Review
Water Quality Assessment Section
Water Quality Division
man
for

From: M. A. Wallace, PhD, Standards Implementation Team
Water Quality Assessment Section
Water Quality Division
man

Date: August 20, 2018

Subject: Port of Corpus Christi Authority of Nueces County;
Permit no. WQ0005253000
New; Application received 3/7/2018

This memo supercedes my memo dated July 2, 2018.

The discharge route for the above referenced permit is directly to Corpus Christi Bay in Segment 2481 of the Bays and Estuaries. The designated uses and dissolved oxygen criterion as stated in Appendix A of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §307.10) for Segment 2481 are primary contact recreation, exceptional aquatic life use, oyster waters, and 5.0 mg/L dissolved oxygen.

In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code §307.5 and the TCEQ implementation procedures (June 2010) for the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review has preliminarily determined that no significant degradation of water quality is expected in Corpus Christi Bay, which has been identified as having exceptional aquatic life use. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

The saltwater pH screening passed Segment 2481 criteria of 6.5-9.0 S.U.

A watershed of high priority has been identified in Segment 2481 in Nueces County. The piping plover, *Charadrius melodus* Ord, a threatened aquatic dependent species, is found in the watershed of Segment 2481; **however, the facility is not**

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a petroleum facility and its discharge is not expected to have an effect on the piping plover. This determination is based on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) biological opinion on the State of Texas authorization of the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES; September 14, 1998, October 21, 1998 update). To make this determination for TPDES permits, TCEQ and EPA only considered aquatic or aquatic dependent species occurring in watersheds of critical concern or high priority as listed in Appendix A of the USFWS biological opinion. The determination is subject to reevaluation due to subsequent updates or amendments to the biological opinion. The permit does not require EPA review with respect to the presence of endangered or threatened species.